

The Sea Serpent is a Fact

Monsters of the Sea Now Recognized as Actualities Instead of Dreams' of the Fictionist of Past or Present.

THE sea serpent. Regarded in the past as a creature of mythology. Recently, piece de resistance, of the Summer hotel reporter, and now, reluctantly but nevertheless fully recognized by science. Recognized and named, Megophias Magophias. Emile G. Racovitz, of the French Zoological Society, has issued a paper based upon statements made by officers and crew of the French gunboat *Avalanche*.

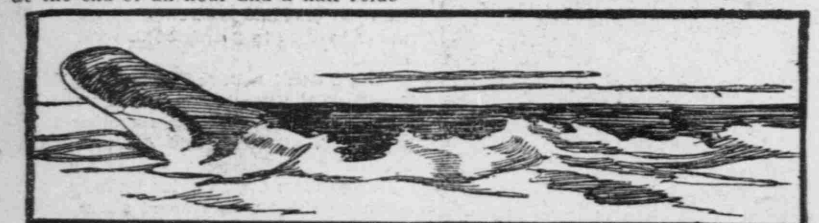
In 1897 the *Avalanche* was cruising in the Bay of Tai-Tai-Long, on the coast of Tonkin.

Her commander, Lieutenant Lagesille, swears that in July of that year he saw two great swimming creatures in the waters of the bay, each at least seventy-five feet long and eight or ten feet in diameter. He immediately took a shot at them, range 2,000 feet, whereupon they both sank and did not appear again.

On the fifteenth of the following February, however, while again crossing the bay, he saw a pair of the same creatures, possibly the same individuals, and fired repeatedly at the animals, but at the end of an hour and a half reluc-

of New Zealand.

The Regaleus is described as an open sea surface-swimming fish having no air bladder. It is of mottled gray and has a crest or mane of reddish brown. The Smithsonian authority says: "It seems safe to assign to this group all



DAEDALUS SEA SERPENT.
Seen August 6th, 1848.

tantly gave up the chase, being out-distanced.

The animals were gray in color and seemed to have a number of flippers. They swam with an undulating movement in a vertical plane, their bodies not being rigid like that of a whale, but extremely flexible.

Nine days later, when the *Avalanche* had on board the commander and eight officers of the French ship, Bayard, another of these monsters was encountered and pursued for thirty-five minutes. This time the boat was close enough

the so-called sea serpents which have been seen swimming rapidly near or on the surface, with the head raised above the water.

The individual which came ashore in Hungry Bay, Bermuda, in 1890, was described by excited persons as much larger than he eventually proved to be, eighteen feet actual measurement.

As a matter of fact, it is not the scientists who doubt the existence of the sea serpent, but the hard-headed people who pride themselves upon their common sense.



BISHOP EGEDE'S SEA SERPENT.
Seen June 17th, 1734.

for the men to see that the creature's head was like that of a seal, though of much larger dimensions.

When it came up after diving, it blew water into the air as a whale does, but this was in the form of a cloud of spray and not a jet.

As Seen From the Bayard.

The officers of the Bayard had photographic apparatus with them and when they had recovered from their surprise ran at once to get their cameras, but before they secured any pictures the creature, with the shyness recorded as one of its invariable characteristics, dived and was seen no more.

An officer of the Bayard, writing, says, "the apparatus was too small, the beast too far off and its movements too unexpected." He observed that there was a crest along the animal's back.

The popular idea that there is but one sea serpent, a solitary monarch of the deep, is upset by the story just told.

The Regaleus is the only sea serpent recognized by the Smithsonian Institution, and it is not a serpent at all, but a long, serpent-like fish. They have frequently been seen thirty feet long. More than forty of these fish have been taken, fourteen on the Scandinavian coast, nineteen on the British coast, five in the Mediterranean, one in Bermuda, three in South Africa, and five off the coast

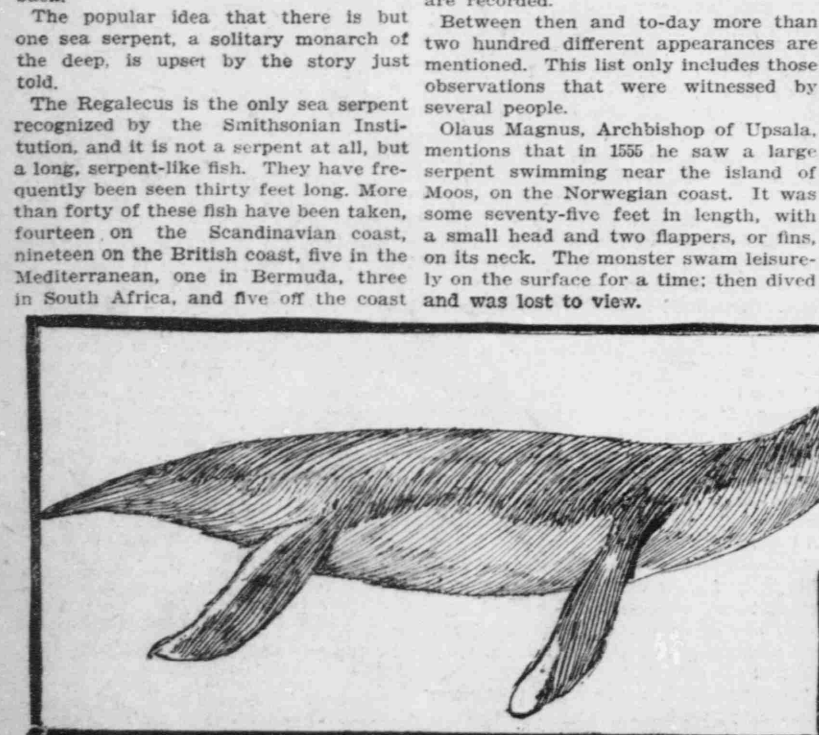
It is a remarkable fact that through all time common sense has arrayed itself upon the side of ignorance, prejudice and narrowness. It was common sense that retarded the development of the steam engine and the steamship. It combatted Columbus, sneered at the Atlantic cable and jeered at aerial navigation.

As Professor Proctor, the famous English scientist, says: "The greatest difficulties in obtaining evidence in regard to the sea serpent is the ridicule with which its publication is greeted. Naturalists have been far less incredulous than the general public. We confess we do not see how we can set aside such a chain of probabilities."

First mention of the sea serpent dates back to the time of Pliny and Aristotle. But it is not until the sixteenth century that the first personal observations are recorded.

Between then and to-day more than two hundred different appearances are mentioned. This list only includes those observations that were witnessed by several people.

Olaus Magnus, Archbishop of Upsala, mentions that in 1556 he saw a large serpent swimming near the island of Moos, on the Norwegian coast. It was some seventy-five feet in length, with a small head and two flappers, or fins, on its neck. The monster swam leisurely on the surface for a time; then dived and was lost to view.



THE PLESIOSAURUS, RESTORED.

America was in Gloucester Harbor, thirty miles north of Boston. This was on June 20, 1815. It was observed by no less than fifteen people, who underwent

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In 1734 Hans Egede, a Dutch missionary, writes that he saw a monstrous serpent fully 100 feet in length in Davis Straits. It was eight feet in diameter and resembled nothing so much as a gigantic conger eel. Many of his friends saw it and added their testimony to his.

The Reverend Mr. Maclean saw a sea serpent off the coast of Hebrides, north of Scotland, and read a paper before the Wernerian Natural History Society in 1808 describing it. "The reptile," he says, "was half a mile from the shore and swimming seaward when first seen. It appeared to be near eighty feet long."

The sea serpent's first appearance in

cross-examination before the Linnaean Society of New England. The head of the serpent was described as being as large as a barrel and its length about 100 feet. A list of authentic appearances of the sea serpent on the New England coast is as follows:

Nahant.....	August 19, 1819
Swampscott.....	August 10, 1820
Nahant.....	July 12, 1821
Nahant.....	July 12, 1826
Lynn.....	July 1833
Swampscott.....	July 1849
Nahant.....	July 30, 1875
Gloucester.....	July 15, 1877

Reports concerning these appearances have not come from ignorant men, but from such gentlemen as Colonel Thomas

H. Perkins, of Boston; Chaplain Finch, U. S. Navy; Samuel Cabot, of Brookline, Mass.; James Prince, U. S. Marshal;

A NORWEGIAN EDITOR MEETS AN AMERICAN "EXTRA"

WE have had frequent opportunities of late to see ourselves as others see us. Books innumerable have been written by travelers who have visited these shores. The views expressed in the various books are so conflicting that we are sometimes tempted to think that the most characteristic trait of the American people is a chameleon-like ability to present a different appearance at different times. And perhaps this is not so far wrong, after all.

The latest addition to the list of books on America is "Til Amerika med Emigranterne" (To America with the Emigrants), by Christian Gjerloff, a member of the editorial staff of *Oreblad*, one of the leading newspapers of Christiania, Norway.

Mr. Gjerloff was sent out by his paper to study the emigration question—to learn why so many Norwegians are leaving their native country to settle in America, and to learn how they fare in their new homes, and his book, as its title indicates, deals chiefly with these questions.

But he devotes a few chapters to his impressions of American life in general, and one of the most interesting of these deals with American journalism.

Mr. Gjerloff walked into a theater one evening at a quarter of 8 to buy a tick-

et. Noticing a strong smell of powder in the lobby, he asked an attendant for an explanation. The attendant told him that two negroes had just been shooting at each other and that one had been wounded in the shoulder.

He told this, says Mr. Gjerloff, as though it were quite an every-day affair and a matter of absolute indifference to him. "But what happened after that?" I asked. "Oh, nothing much," replied the attendant. "Detective Sergeant Hope, from the Lexington station, arrested them both."

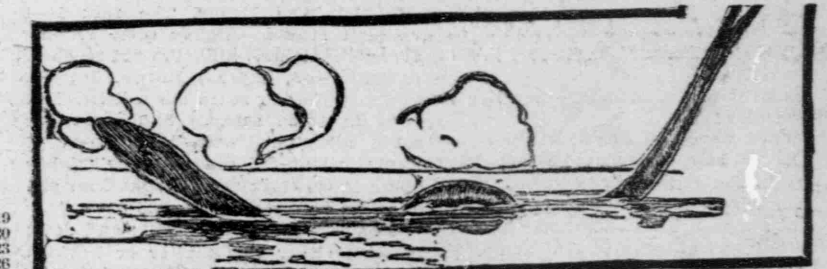
On hearing this, continues the writer, I felt a great desire to try my luck as an American reporter. It can do no harm, I thought, and I know what I shall tell them. I shall refer them to the Lexington station for further particulars. That's the way we do in Norway. So I boarded a Broadway car, and fifteen minutes later, twenty minutes after the shots were fired, I was in the city room of one of the greatest metropolitan newspapers.

LARGEST KITE IN THE WORLD.

THE longest and most wonderful kite has just arrived in New York. It is the great Chinese Dragon Kite, more than forty feet long and the first of its kind seen in this country.

It will shortly be exhibited in the large Asiatic collection just arrived from the Orient at the American Museum of Natural History. This is intended to fully illustrate the industrial life of the Chinese people in a very comprehensive manner, and on a larger scale than hitherto attempted in America.

The form of the kite is designed to be a counterpart of the Great Flying Dragon. This is unquestionably the longest and most fantastic device that



OBSERVED FROM THE GERMAN CORVETTE ELIZABETH.
Seen July 26th, 1883.

H. Perkins, of Boston; Chaplain Finch, U. S. Navy; Samuel Cabot, of Brookline, Mass.; James Prince, U. S. Marshal;

Here the very deuce was to pay. A tall, slim man stood at a high desk; toward him, from every direction, rushed a mob of pale, disheveled Yankees, each shouting something at the top of his voice. To each the tall man shouted a word or two of reply, whereupon they rushed back to their desks and wrote as though their lives depended on it.

At first I thought that here, among all these crazy men, was no place for me, but I mustered up courage and walked boldly up to the desk. With great presence of mind I refrained from taking off my hat.

I began my story: "Twenty minutes ago two negroes had a shooting affray in the Casino Theater." I got no further. With a superb, almost godlike gesture, the man pointed to a paper lying on the floor beside the desk. It was the 8 o'clock edition of his paper, and the first thing that met my eye was a glaring red headline: "Negro Duel at the Casino." Then followed a long description, giving the names and ages of the participants, their love affairs, and so on, all printed in red ink. Less than half an hour after the duel took place the whole city was reading it.

I bowed deeply to the tall thin man and went away. But I made up my mind that I would go back some day and make him tell me how it was done.

Rev. Arthur Lawrence, of Stockbridge, Mass.; Hon. Lonsen Nash, of Gloucester, Mass.; and E. F. Newhall, of Saugus, as well as from intelligent captains, sailors and fishermen. As to size, color, speed and manner of cutting the water, all accounts agree to a remarkable extent.

The observation of Colonel Perkins, of Gloucester, all the towns, as you may suppose, was on the alert, and almost every individual, both great and small, had been gratified, at a greater or less distance, with a sight of him. The weather was fine, the sea smooth, and Mr. Lee and myself sat on a point of land overlooking the water.

"In a few minutes I saw, at the



MR. ARMIT'S SERPENT.
Seen at Leith, Scotland, July, 1876.

other side of the harbor, at about two miles distance from where we had been sitting, an object moving with a rapid motion up the harbor on the western shore. As he approached us it was easy to see that his motion was not that of a common snake, either in land or in the water, but evidently the vertical movement of a caterpillar.

"As nearly as I could judge there was visible at a time about forty feet of his body. It was very evident that the length must have been much greater than what appeared, as in his movements he left a considerable wake in his rear."

"I had a fine glass and was within a third of a mile of him. The head was flat in the water, and the animal was, so far as I could judge, of a chocolate color."

"There were a great many people collected, many of whom had seen the same object. From the time I first saw him until he passed by where I stood, and soon after disappeared, was about twenty minutes."

"One of the revenue cutters, while in the neighborhood of Cape Ann, had an excellent view of the animal at a few

yards' distance. He moved slowly, and at the approach of the vessel sank, and was not seen again."